DURSLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1942.

Medical Officer of Health - J.H. Kitson, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector - W.H. Williams, M.R.S.I.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	26,905
Population (Census, 1931)...	14,400
(Estimated 1942)	17,230
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931) ...	3,788
(end of 1942) ...	4,962
Rateable Value	61,493
Sum represented by a penny rate	248

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M	F.
Live Births:			
Legitimate	281	150	131
Illegitimate	5	4	1

Birth Rate: 16.6

Still Births (all legitimate) ...	10	5	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births: 33.8

Deaths	162	77	85

Death Rate: 9.4

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

from sepsis ...	0
from other causes	0

RATE per 1000 total (live and still) births - NIL.

Deaths of infants under one year -

	Total.	M.	F.
	13	8	5
Legitimate...	13	8	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1000 live births - 45
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births - 46
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births - Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).. ...	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years).. ...	1
" " Cancer (all ages)	24

Social Conditions of the District.

These remain the same as in previous years.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1942.

DISEASE.	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	1	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diptheria	1	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	2
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0
8. Syphilitic diseases	0	0
9. Influenza	2	1
10. Measles	0	0
11. Ac. Polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	0	0
12. Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0
13. Cancer of B. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	2	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
15. Cancer of breast.	0	2
16. Cancer of other sites	6	10
17. Diabetes	0	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	8	7
19. Heart disease	19	36
20. Other diseases of circ. system	2	0
21. Bronchitis	3	0
22. Pneumonia	5	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	0
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	1
26. Appendicitis	1	0
27. Other digestive diseases	3	5
28. Nephritis	2	2
29. Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	0
31. Premature birth	4	1
32. Con. mal.; birth inj.; infant. dis.	3	2
33. Suicide	2	0
34. Road traffic accidents	1	0
35. Other violent causes	0	1
36. All other causes	6	6
TOTALS	77	85

SECTION B. WATER SUPPLY.

Much time was devoted to the inspection of the several water undertakings owned by the District Council, and 30 samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination from the following sources:- Dursley Caswell 3, Dursley Broadwell 3, Millend North Nibley 8, Coaley 8, Kingswood 5 and Wotton-under-Edge 3.

Dursley Area Water Supply.

Proposals for augmenting this supply in times of shortage were considered and the Water Inspector was instructed to prepare a detailed estimate of the cost of laying an overground emergency supply from Millend, North Nibley. Unfortunately bacteriological examination showed evidence of faecal pollution and approval was withheld pending satisfactory reports.

Stinchcombe Hill District.

During the year a boosting plant was installed to serve houses in Stinchcombe Hill, Dursley.

Kingswood Water Supply.

A sample of water was taken from Mr. Durn's shop at Kingswood on the 24th August 1942 and submitted to bacteriological examination. The report dated 28th August was as follows:-

Number of colonies per ml of original water
developing at 37°C = 130.
at 20.22°C = 290.

Probable number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml of original water = 50.
B coli type I present.

Remarks. Polluted.

(Signed) K.E. Cooper,
Senior Bacteriologist.

A further sample was taken on the 4th September and the probable number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml of original water was more than 1800, indicating evidence of serious pollution.

A similar report was received on a sample taken from the storage tank at Synwell during torrential rain on the morning of the 21st September. The Synwell supply is derived from two sources and these were examined separately on the 12th October and both were polluted.

A thorough examination has been made of the area surrounding the sources or probable sources, and several undesirable conditions have been discovered, e.g. cottages with pail closets, cultivated gardens and stock grazing.

In the opinion of your Medical Officer of Health this water is, or is likely to become, so polluted as to be prejudicial to health and moreover it is not reasonably practicable to remedy the cause of the pollution.

Under Section 124 of the Public Health Act, 1936 "All public pumps, wells, cisterns, reservoirs, conduits, and other works used for the gratuitous supply of water to the inhabitants of any part of the district of a local authority shall vest in and be under the control of the authority" and I therefore recommended the Council to close the works.

The Council's obligations under Section III (ii)(a) of ensuring a domestic supply to Kingswood will be met by continuing the present arrangement whereby the Kingswood Parish Council purchases water from Wotton-under-Edge.

The Council unanimously resolved that the polluted source be disconnected and its use discontinued as a public supply.

SECTION C. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

DISEASE	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	35	9	-
Diphtheria	5	5	1
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-
Pneumonia	18	-	9
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	2	2	1
Measles	9	-	-
Whooping Cough	53	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-

Analysis of total notified cases under age-groups:

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 yrs and over	TOTAL.
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	1	2	16	7	1	1	3	-	-	35
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	2	18
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	2	1	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	9
Whooping Cough	6	7	8	4	11	15	-	-	1	1	-	-	53
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

(a) Number of pre-school children immunised	510
(b) Number of school children immunised	529
(c) Number of notifications (children under the age of 15).	4
(d) Number of children included in (c) who had received a complete course of immunisation	0
(e) Number of deaths from diphtheria	1
(f) Number of deaths included in (e) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease.	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respriatory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	2	3	-	1	-	1	-	-
25 -	1	3	1	1	-	1	-	-
35 -	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	7	2	2	1	2	-	-

SCABIES.

At no time has scabies been prevalent in the district. In April a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the question of treatment and it was agreed that although there were not sufficient cases to justify establishing cleansing stations, the County Council as School Medical Authority, should be asked to provide baths at their clinics at Dursley and Wotton-under-Edge. The County Council's reply was "That the provision of baths presents great practical difficulties".

Application was also made to the County Public Assistance Committee to use the Dursley Public Assistance Institution for the treatment of certain classes of persons suffering from scabies but the request was refused owing to lack of isolation facilities. The Committee agreed, after the District Council had made application to the Ministry of Health to an arrangement for the clothes of persons suffering from scabies to be taken to the Institution for disinfestation on the understanding that the cost should be borne by the District Council.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

After a full discussion the Council resolved that representations be made to the Ministry of Health, the local Member of Parliament and District Councils in Gloucestershire that the powers contained in Regulation 33B of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, which provides for the compulsory treatment of venereal disease in certain cases, should be extended so as to require notification and proper treatment of all cases of this disease.